This family care, which is legally mandatory, is indispensable for the well-being and future of society. Nevertheless, the value of such work is still not recognized and it is therefore considered economically unproductive; it is quantified neither in national statistics nor in gross national product (GNP) accounting. Under existing social insurance systems, which are based exclusively on paid employment, persons who work in the home are not entitled to social benefits. Entitlement to an old-age pension presupposes lifelong paid employment.

Women who are or have been working in the home on a full-time basis are considered economically inactive and are therefore quite likely to lead a life of insecurity and exclusion in the event of separation, divorce or widowhood.

Consequently, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Programme of Action for the World Summit for Social Development (1995) (chap. IV, sect. E, para. 64) and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) (paras. 165 (g) and 206), the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer requests Governments:

- To recognize and calculate the economic and social value of unpaid family work and incorporate the value of such work into GNP satellite accounts;
- To grant every woman the right to a basic pension which will provide a decent standard of living taking into consideration family time, without reference to her own income or to any employment status, and guaranteeing access to high-quality services and care;
- To give elderly persons the right to be cared for by their families;
- To provide material and psychological assistance to help families take on this additional responsibility.